Steps taken to send chakma refugees from Tripura

1860. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bangladeshi chakma refugees in Tripura whom Bangladesh Government have not taken back as yet;

(b) the steps from the side of Government of India to sent them back to Bangladesh; and

(c) how these people are pulling on in the State of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) All the Bangladeshi chakma refugees in Tripura have since been repatriated to Bangladesh.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, (b) and (c) do not arise.

Additional battalions of CRPF to fight terrorism

1861. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to raise additional battalions of CRPF and adequately equipping them to combat terrorism and armed insurgencies in Kashmir and the North East; and

(b) if so, whether the training content has been so structured to enable these forces to competently handle the fast changing profile of terrorist outfits and insurgent groups which are operating in inhospitable terrain of Kashmir and North East, thus having strategic advantage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The Government has approved a plan for augmentation of the Central Police Forces including CRPF over a period of five years from 2000-2001. A five-year modernisation plan for the Forces to equip them with modern weaponry and equipment has also been approved in 2002 to combat terrorism and armed insurgencies.

(b) Training content of courses in the force include components to

take care of special operational requirements of these areas. In addition personnel are also sent for specialised training courses on counter insurgency and jungle warfare depending on availability of seats in the related institutions.

Deletion of article 370 from the Constitution

†1862. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delete Article 370 regarding Jammu and Kashmir from the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No proposal to delete Article 370 regarding Jammu & Kashmir from the Constitution of India is under the consideration of the Government.

Recession in lime stone industry of Rajasthan

1863. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lime stone industries of Nimbaheda of Rajasthan are passing through a period of severe recession;

(b) whether large number of mines of lime stone are on the verge of closure resulting into severe losses and unemployment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Lime stone when used in the Cement, Steel and Chemical Industry, comes under the purview of the Central Government

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.